

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 7 and 8 as follows:

7. (Amended) A method of screening for a substance that inhibits or induces interaction between a transcription coupling factor and Smad molecule comprising the following steps:

- a. preparing a culture system consisting of introducing a transcription coupling factor expression vector and a Smad molecule expression vector into cultured cells and culturing said cells;
- b. adding a substance to be tested to said culture system; and
- c. measuring inhibition activity or induction activity of said substance by detecting the binding of said transcription coupling factor to said Smad molecule.

8. (Amended) A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim 7, wherein said transcription coupling factor is CBP and/or p300.

Please add new claims 14-17:

14. A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim 7, wherein said Smad molecule is Smad3.

15. A method of screening for a substance that inhibits or induces interaction between a transcription coupling factor and a Smad molecule comprising: physically contacting said transcription coupling factor with said Smad molecule in the presence or absence of a substance to be tested; detecting the binding of said transcription coupling factor to said Smad molecule; and measuring inhibition activity or induction activity of said substance.

16. A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim 15, wherein said transcription coupling factor is CBP and/or p300.

17. A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim 15, wherein said Smad molecule is Smad3.